

State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE** Contact: Samantha Slapnik Date: April 28, 2004 Phone: 919/733-5612

GOV. EASLEY TO OVERSEE EQUIPMENT SHIPMENT TO NATIONAL GUARD IN IRAQ

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley will join Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety Bryan Beatty and Maj. Gen. William E. Ingram, Jr., adjutant general of the North Carolina National Guard, as Guard members prepare communication and safety equipment for shipment overseas at 3:00 p.m. TODAY (April 28) at the N.C. National Guard Armory (4105 Reedy Creek Road) in Raleigh.

On April 7, Gov. Easley announced the state would be sending additional safety equipment to members of the N.C. National Guard's 30th Heavy Separate Brigade (HSB) to supplement the equipment they are already using on patrols in Iraq.

The 30th HSB will receive handheld radios. They will also receive laptop computers, which will give more soldiers access to computers to help expedite planning, assignments and execution of their duties. The state is also sending body armor donated by law enforcement agencies across the state to be used to help make the military vehicles more bullet resistant. In addition, the state is providing battery-operated flashing yellow lights to be used at nighttime checkpoints. The lights will help make the checkpoints more visible, improving safety for the soldiers manning the checkpoints and the Iraqi citizens using the roads.

Directions:

From downtown Raleigh, take Wade Avenue/U.S. 70/N.C. 50. Continue on the Raleigh Chapel Hill Expressway. Take the Blue Ridge Road exit. Turn right onto Blue Ridge Road. Turn left onto Reedy Creek Road.

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